

~~Copies~~ Part of the evidence taken on the  
Examination of the Mormon  
Prisoners before Judge King.

Not to be opened

Copy of the testimony, given before Hon. C.  
Austin A. King, at the age of 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial circuit  
in the State of Virginia, at the Court house in  
Richmond. ~~before~~ in Criminal Court of Virginia  
begin Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1838. Judge Jeff. Davis  
Is with you Hiram Smith, Sidney Rigdon,  
Parley P Pratt, Lyman Wright, Amaziah Lyman  
Geo. W. Robertson, Israel Baldwin, Abner Ripley,  
Washington Morris, Sidney Turner, John Beck  
Hannan, Jacob Gates, Alexander Haldbrook  
Geo. W. Kimball, George D. Hunter, and <sup>and</sup> Wm. Black  
Marion, C. Alfred, Wm Alfred, Geo. Grant, Darward  
Chase, Elijah Newman, Alvin S. Tippels,  
Zedekiah Quisen, Isaac Norley, Thos Stock  
Noss, Clawson, John J. Tanner, Dan Stearns  
Dan J. Thomas, Alex. McBay, Eleazar Edwards,  
John J. Higley, Ebenezer Page, Ben Coney,  
Ebenezer Robinson, Simon Gibbs, a Mr. Henderson  
David Pettigrew, Edward Partridge, Francis  
Higley, David Brumpton, George Struble, Jos.  
W. Younger, Henry Fabrius, Allen Edwards  
Sheffield Daniels, Jas. Manico, Gathorne Head  
Benj. Jones, Dan. Green, John J. Earl, a man  
Norman Stearns, who were charged with, and  
several crimes of high treason against the State,  
Murder, Burglary, Robbery, Larceny,  
Samson Edwards a witness, moderate success &  
examined on behalf of the State. He proposed  
saying that about 4 months ago, a band called  
the Daughters of Zion, since called the Danite  
band was formed of the members of the Mormon  
Church, the original object of which was to drive  
from the County of Caldwell, all those who  
dissented from the Mormon Church, in which  
they succeeded admirably to the satisfaction  
of those concerned. I consider Joseph Smith Jr  
as the main mover and organizer of the Danite  
band - The officers of the band, according to  
their grade, were brought before him at a  
school house, together with Hiram Smith &  
Sidney Rigdon, the three composing the first  
presidency of the whole church. Joseph Smith  
anointed them & prophesied over them, <sup>the</sup> day

that they should be the means, in the hands of God  
of bringing forth the Millennium Kingdom. It  
was as stated by Joseph Smith Jr. that it was necessary  
this band should be bound together by a cove-  
nant. That those who recanted the secret of  
the society should be put to death. The Cove-  
nant taken by all the Danite band was as  
follows. To wit: "We declare holding up their  
right hands, "In the name of Jesus Christ the  
Son of God, I do solemnly obligate myself, ever  
to conceal & never to reveal the secret purpose  
of this society, called the daughter of Zion.  
Should I ever do the same, I hold my life as  
the forfeiture!" The prophet Joseph Smith  
together with his two counsellors Hyram Smith  
& Sidney Rigdon, were considered as the supreme  
head of the Church, and the Danite band held  
themselves as much bound to obey them as to  
obey the supreme God. Instruction was given  
by God Smith Jr. that if any of them should get  
a difficulty, the rest should help him out,  
that they should stand by each other right or  
wrong. This instruction was given at a Danite  
meeting on a Sabbath & added. as for God  
Smith Jr. & his two counsellors, the writer does  
not know that they ever took the Danite oath.  
He knows that all the rest of the people are  
Danites, except Sidney Tanner, Al. & Whipple  
Zed. Owen, Thos. Rich, John L. Brown, David  
Thomas, David Religous, George Knable, Anthony  
Head, Benj. Jones, Mormon Shearer.

At an election last August, a report came to far  
west that some of the brethren in a band, by were  
killed. I called for 20 volunteers to accompany  
me to Adam andi Brown. Mr. Joseph Smith Jr. in com-  
pany, when we arrived there I found the re-  
port exaggerated, none were killed. We visited  
Mr. Adam Black about 150 or 200 men of us  
armed. God Smith was commander, and of this  
had not signed the paper he did, it was the command

understand & belief that he would have shared the fate of the dissenters. Sidney Rigdon and Lyman Wight were at Adam when we went to Blacks & advised the movement.

As regards the affair at De Wit, I know little personally, but I hear and Mr. St. Rigdon <sup>says</sup> they had gone down to De Wit where it was said a mob had collected to wage war upon the Mormons, residing in Carroll County & that Joseph Smith Jr. with his friends went down to De Wit to give aid & help to his brethren, the company, as I presume, were armed. They're turned armed. Hiram Smith & Geo. W. Robert son were in the company. Amazi Lyman went to see what was going on. I hear these persons say they were in Hinckley camp at De Wit several days. When the Mormons returned from De Wit it was rumoured that a mob was collecting in Davis City. Jos Smith Jr., the Sunday before the late disturbance in Davis, at a church meeting, gave no notice that he wished the whole County collected on the next day (Monday) at Far West. He declared, (on Sunday or Monday I don't recollect which) that all who did not take up arms in defence of the Mormons of Davis, should be considered as tories, and should take their exit ~~out of~~ the County.

At the meeting on Monday, where persons met from all parts of the County of Caldwell. Jos Smith Jr. took the pulpit & delivered an address, in which he said, that we had been an injured people, driven violently from Jackson City, that we had appealed to the Governor, magistrates, judges & even to the President of the U. States & there had been no redress for us, and that now a mob was about to destroy the rights of our brethren of Davis City and that it was high time that we should take measures to defend our own rights. In the address he related an anecdote about a captain who applied to a Dutch man to purchase keolades, & who refused to sell

sell. The Captain then Chas. D. this com  
 pany, several different ten & not to  
 touch the Dutchman's potatoes, In the morn  
 ing the Dutchman had not a potatoe left in  
 his patch. This was in reference to touch  
 no property, in our expedition to Davis  
 City that did not belong to us. but he told  
 us that the ~~people~~ <sup>children</sup> of God do not go to war  
 at their own expense - A vote was taken  
 whether the brethren should embody and go  
 down to Davis, to attack the mob. This ques  
 tion was put by the prophet <sup>John</sup> Smith Jr  
 & passed unanimously, with a few exceptions.  
 Captains Patterson & Brownson were appoint  
 ed commanders of the Mormons by <sup>John</sup> Smith Jr  
 to go to Davis, he frequently called these men  
 generals. I once had a command as an  
 officer but <sup>John</sup> Smith Jr removed me from it  
 & asked him the reason & he apained that he  
 had another office for me; afterwards Mr  
 Rigdon told me I was to fill the office of  
 Surgeon to attend to the sick & wounded  
 After we arrived at Liahona in Davis, a  
 council was held, at night composed of <sup>John</sup>  
 Smith Jr, Geo. W Robertson, Hiram Smith  
 Captain Patterson & Brownson, Lyman Wight  
 Prest R. Capron, P. P. Pratt and myself &  
 perhaps Mr Shuck - Prest Rigdon was  
 not present, he remained at Far West; a  
 correspondence was kept up between him &  
<sup>John</sup> Smith Jr. I heard Mr Rigdon read one of  
 the letters from Smith which as I remember  
 was about as follows That he knew from  
 prophecies & from the revelation of Jesus  
 Christ that the enemies of the Kingdom were  
 in their hands, & that they (the mormon church)  
 should succeed - Rigdon on reading the  
 letter said it gave him <sup>great</sup> ~~satisfaction~~  
 that to have such authority that the Kingdom  
 of God was rolling on - In the above  
 referred to council Mr Smith spoke of the  
 grievances we had suffered in Jackson, Clay,  
 Kirtland & other places, declared that we must

in future stand up for our rights as citizens of the U. States, & as Saints of the most high God. & that it was the will of God we should do so. That we should be free and independant, and that as the State of Mississippi and the U. States would not protect us it was high time that we should <sup>do</sup> up as the saints of the most high God & protect ourselves & take the Kingdom.

Leyman Wright observed that before the winter was over he thought we would be in St Louis to meet. Smith charged them that they should be united in supporting each other. Smith said on some occasion that one should chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight. That he considered the U. States rotten, he compared the Mormon Church to the little stone spoken of by the prophet Daniel & that the Diciples first & the statement was part of the image that should be destroyed by this little stone.

The Council was called on to vote the measures of Smith, which they did unanimously. On the next day Capt Patten who was called by the prophet Capt Fearnaught, took command of about 100 armed men & told them that he had a job for them to do & that the work of the Lord was rolling on, & they must be mind. He then led his troops to Galatin, saying he was going to attack the mob there. He made a rush into Galatin, dispersed the few men there and took the goods out of Stollings' store, & carried them to Diakmon. & afterwards saw the store house on fire. When we returned to Diakmon the goods were deposited in the Lord's store house under the care of Bishop Vincent Knight. Orders were strictly given that all the goods should be deposited in the Lord's store house no individual were to appropriate any thing to themselves until a general distribution should be made. Jos. Smith Jr was at Adam and Diakmon giving directions about things in general connected with the war when Patten returned from Galatin to Adam and Diakmon. the goods were divided or appor-

-tioneed out amongst those engaged, and this affairs were conducted under the superin tendency of the first presidency. Apart of the goods were brought to Far West, on their arrival under the care of Capt Gear naught. Prest Rigdon and others shouted their hosannahs to the victors - On the day Patten went to Galatin. Col. Wight went to Mill Port, as I understand. I saw a great many cattle, beds, furniture & brought out our camps by the Mormons. After we were turned to Far West, the troops were con stantly kept in motion; and there was a council held at the house of Prest Rigdon to determine who should be chief. It was determined that Col. Wight should be commander in chief at Adam and Ammon, Stevenson Capt of the flying horse of Davis. Col. Hinck le should be commander in chief of the Far West troops. Capt Patten Capt of the flying horse or cavalry, and that the prophet Joe Smith Jr should be commander in chief of the whole Kingdom. The council was composed of Joe Smith Jr Capt Gear naught alias Patten Col. Hinckle, Col. Wight & Prest Rigdon. The object of the council was in furtherance of the scheme proposed in council in Davis City referred to above - after this council Gear naught dis puted as to the chief command of the far west troops & had a smart altercation about it with Hinckle but Smith proposed that they agree to disagree and go on for the good of the Kingdom. The troops were kept together until the militia came out lately; there was from 700 to 800 men as I should suppose under arms - It was about the time that the militia <sup>came</sup> out lately to Far West under Genl Lucas, that our prophet assembled the troops together at Far West into a hollow square, and addressed them and stated to them that the Kingdom of God should be set up & should never fall, and for every one that we lacked in number, of those who came against us the Lord would send angels, who would fight for

us & that we should be victorious - After the militia had been near Far West a while, in an address Smith said that those troops were militia, & that we were militia too, and both sides clever fellows, & that he advised them to know nothing of what had happened, to say nothing & to keep dark; - that he Smith had forgotten more than he had ever known - After it was ascertained that the militia had arrived, intelligence was immediately sent to Leavenworth to Col Wight - next morning Col Wight arrived in Far West with about 100 mounted ~~and~~ armed men

The troops were constantly kept prepared, and in a situation to repel attack - The evening the militia arrived near Far West, it was the general understanding in the mormon Camps that they were militia legally called out, ~~peculiar~~ and indeed previous to their arrival it was ascertained that there were militia on their way to Far West. - Some months ago I received orders to destroy the paper concerning the Danite society, which order was issued by the first presidency, and which paper being the constitution for the government of the Danite Society, was in my custody, but which I did not destroy - It is now in Genl Clark's possession - I gave the paper up to Genl Clark after I was taken prisoner - I found it in my house, where I had previously deposited it, and believe it had never been in any person's possession after I first rec'd it - This paper was taken into pres't Rigdon's house and read to the prophet & his counsellors, and was unanimously adopted by them as their rule and guide in future - After it was thus adopted I was instructed by the council to destroy it, as, if it should be discovered, it would be considered treasonable - This constitution, after it was approved of by the first presidency was read, article by article to the Danite band and unanimously adopted by them - This paper was drawn up about the time that the Danite band was formed - Since the drawing up of the paper against the dissenters, it was, that this constitution of the Danite band was drafted - but I have no minutes of the time, as we were directed <sup>not</sup> to keep ~~any~~ written minutes - which constitution above referred to is as follows - :

"Whereas in all bodies, laws are necessary, for the permanency, safety, and well being of society, we the members of the society of the daughter of Zion, do agree to regulate ourselves under such laws as on righteous steps shall be deemed necessary for the preservation of our holy religion, and of our most sacred rights, and the rights of our wives and children. But to be explicit on the subject, it is especially our object, to support and defend the rights conferred on us by our venerable sires, who purchased them with the pledges of their lives, their fortunes, & their sacred honours - And now to prove ourselves worthy of the liberty conferred on us by them, in the providence of God, we do agree to be governed by such laws, as shall perpetuate these high privileges, of which we know ourselves to be the rightful possessors, and of which privileges wicked and designing men have tried to deprive us, by all manner of evil, and that surely in consequence of the tenacity we have manifested in the discharge of our duty towards our God, who had given us those rights and privileges, and a right in common with others to dwell on this Land - But we not having the privileges of others allowed unto us, have determined, like unto our fathers to resist tyranny whether it be in Kings, or in people. It is all alike unto us, our rights we must have, and our rights we shall have in the name of Israels God.

#### Article 1<sup>st</sup>

All power belongs originally, and legitimately to the people, and they have a right to dispose of it as they shall deem fit - But as it is inconvenient, and impossible to convene the people in all cases, the legislative powers have been given by them from time to time into the hands of a representation, composed of delegates from the people themselves - This is and has been the law, both in civil and religious bodies, and is the true principle

#### Article 2<sup>nd</sup>

The executive power shall be vested in the president of the whole church and his counsellors -

#### Article 3<sup>rd</sup>

The legislative powers shall reside in the president and his counsellors together, and with the generals and

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Article 3<sup>o</sup>

The Legislative power shall reside in the President and his Counsellors together and with the Generals and Colonels of the society. By them all laws shall be made regulating the society.

Article 4<sup>o</sup>

All offices shall be during life and good behaviour or to be regulated by the law of God.

Article 5<sup>o</sup>

The Society reserves the power of electing all its officers with the exception of the Aids and Clerks which the officers may need in the various stations. The nomination to go from the Presidency to his second and from the second to the third in rank and so down thro all the various grades each branch or department retains the power of electing its own particular officers.

Article 6<sup>o</sup>

Punishments shall be ~~inflicted~~ administered to the guilty in accordance to the offence and no member shall be punished without law or by any other than those appurtena by law for that purpose. The Legislature shall have power to make laws regulating punishments as in their judgments shall be wisdom and righteousness.

Article 7<sup>o</sup>

There shall be a secretary whose business it shall be to keep all the Legislative records of the Society and also to keep a Register of the names of any number of the Society also the rank of the officers. He shall also communicate the laws to the Generals as directed by laws made by the regulation of such business by the Legislature.

Article 8<sup>o</sup>

All officers shall be subject to the Commands of the Captain General given ~~to~~ through the Secretary of War. And so all officers shall be subject to their superiors in rank according to laws made for that purpose.

Whereas in all bodies laws are necessary for the permanent safety and well being of society and the members of the Society of the Daughters of Zion do agree to regulate ourselves under such laws as in righteous ness shall be deemed necessary for the preservation of our holy religion and of our most sacred rights and the rights of our wives and Children. But to be explicit on the subject it is especially our object to support and defend the rights conferred on us by our venerable Saviour who purchased them with the pledges of their lives fortunes and sacred honor. And that we may prove ourselves worthy of the liberty conferred on us by them in the providence of God we do agree to be governed by such laws as shall perpetuate these high privileges of which we know ourselves to be the rightful possessors and of which privileges wicked and designing men have tried to deprive us by all manner of evil and that purely in consequence of the lenacity we have manifested in the discharge of our duty towards our God who had given us these rights and privileges and a right so common with others to dress on this land. But we not having the privileges of others all orbed unto us have determined like unto our Father to resist Tyranny whether it be in Kings or in people. If is all alike to us our rights we must have and our rights we shall have in the name of Israels God.

#### Article 1<sup>st</sup>

All power belongs originally and legitimately to the people and they have a right to dispose of it as they shall deem fit. But as it is inconvenient and impossible to convene the people in all cases the Legislative power have been given by them from time to time into the hands of a Representation composed of Delegates from the people themselves. This is and has been the law both in civil and religious bodies and is the true principle.

#### Article 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Executive power shall be vested in the President of the whole Church and his counsellors.

colonels, of the society. By them all laws shall be made regulating the society -

Article 4<sup>th</sup>

~~The society reserves the power of electing all its officers with the exception of the aids and clerks which the officers may need in their various stations -~~ All offices shall be during life, and good behaviour, or to be regulated by the Law of God.

Article 5<sup>th</sup>

The society reserves the power of electing all its officers, with the exception of the aids and clerks which the officers may need in their various stations - The nomination to go from the presidency to his second, & from the second to the third in rank, and so down through all the various grades, each branch or department retains the power of electing its own particular officers.

Article 6<sup>th</sup>

Punishments shall be administered to the guilty in accordance to the offence, and no member shall be punished without law, or by any others than those appointed by law for that purpose - The Legislature shall have power to make laws regulating punishments, as in their judgment shall be wise and righteous.

Article 7<sup>th</sup>

There shall be a secretary whose business it shall be to keep all the legislative records of the society, and also to keep a register of the names of every member of the society, also the rank of the officers. He shall also communicate the laws to the generals, as directed by laws made for the regulation of such business by the legislature.

Article 8<sup>th</sup>

All officers shall be subject to the commands of the Captain General, given through the Secretary of War, and small officers shall be subject to their superiors in rank, according to laws made for that purpose

In connection with the grand scheme of the prophet his preachers and apostles were instructed to preach to and to instruct their followers, (who are estimated in Europe & America at about 40,000) that it was their duty to come up to the state called Far West and to possess the kingdom, that it was the will of God that they should do so, & that the Lord would give

give them power to possess the Kingdom — There was another writing drawn up in June last, which had for its object to get rid of the dissenters, and which had the desired effect. [This is the paper drawn up against the dissenters referred to above by the witness] — Since that time, and since the introduction of the ordinance of the prophet made known in the above constitution, I have the prophet say that it was a fortunate thing that we got rid of the dissenters, as they would have endangered the rolling on of the Kingdom of God, as introduced and to be carried into effect by the danite band, That they the dissenters were great obstacles in the way, and that unless they were removed, the aforesaid Kingdom could not roll on — This paper against the dissenters was drafted by Sidney Rigdon and is as follows:

" Far West June 1838

" To Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, John Whitmer, William W. Phelps, and Lyman E. Johnson, greeting — Whereas the citizens of Caldwell county have borne with the abuse received from you at different times and on different occasions, until it is no longer to be endured, neither will they endure it any longer, having exhausted all the patience they have, and conceive that to bear any longer is a vice instead of a virtue. We have borne long and suffered incredibly, but we will neither bear nor suffer any longer, and the decree has gone forth from our hearts, and shall not return to us void — Neither think gentlemen that in so saying we are trifling with either you or ourselves for we are not. There are no threats from you, no fear of loosing our lives by you, or by any thing you can say or do will restrain us, for out of the County you shall go, and no power shall save you — And you shall have three days after you receive this communication to you, including twenty four hours in each day for you to depart, with your families, peaceably, which you may do undisturbed by any person, but in that time if you do not depart we will use the means in our power to cause you to depart, for go you shall — We will have no more promises to reform

as you have already done, and in every instance violated your promise, and regarded not the covenant which you had made, but put both it and us at defiance. We have solemnly warned you, and that in the most determined manner, that if you did not cease that course of wanton abuse of the citizens of this county, that vengeance would overtake you sooner or later, and that when it did come, it would be as furious as the mountain torrent, and as terrible as the beating tempest, but you have affected to despise our warnings, and has them off with a sneer, or a grin, or a threat, and pursued your former course, and vengeance sleepeth not, neither does it slumber, and unless you heed us this time, and attend to our request it will overtake you, at an hour when you do not expect, and at a day when you do not look for it. and for you there shall be no escape, for there is but one decree for you, which is depart - depart, or a more fatal calamity shall befall you -

After Oliver Goodruey had been taken by a State's War warrant for stealing ~~and~~ the <sup>and</sup> Stole property found <sup>in</sup> in the house of William W Phelps in which nefarious transaction John Whitmer had also participated, Oliver Goodruey stole the property conveyed it to John Whitmer and John Whitmer to William W Phelps and thus the officer of the law found it. While in the hands of the officer and under an arrest for this vile transaction, and if possible to hide your shame from the world like criminals which indeed you were, you appealed to our beloved brethren Presidents Joseph Smith Jr, Sidney Rigdon men whose characters you had endeavored to destroy by every artifice you could invent, not even the basest lying excepted, and did you find them revengeful, no but notwithstanding all your scandalous attacks still such was the nobleness of their character that even vile enemies could not appeal to them in vain, -

They enlisted as you will know their influence to save you from your just fate, and they by their influence delivered you out of the hand of the officer, while you were pleading with them you promised reformation, you bound yourselves by the most solemn promises that you would never be employed again in abusing any of the citizens of Caldwell, and by such considerations did you attempt to escape the work house. But now for the

sequel, did you practice the promised reformation, you  
know you did not, but by secret efforts, continued to prac-  
tise your iniquity, and secretly to injure their character  
notwithstanding their kindred to you, are such  
things to be borne, you yourselves would answer that  
they are unanswerable if you were to answer according  
to the feelings of your own hearts, As we design this  
paper to be published to the world we will give an  
epistome of your scandalous conduct and treachery for  
the last two years. We wish to remind you that Oliver Goudry  
and David Whitmer were among the principal of those who  
were the means of gathering us to this place by their testimony  
which they gave concerning the plates of the book of Mormon;  
that they were shewn to them by an Angel which testimony  
we believe now as much as before you had so scandalous-  
ly disgraced it; You commenced your wickedness by heading  
a party to disturb the worship of the Saints in the first  
day of the week and made the house of the Lord in Scotland  
to be a scene of abuse and slander, to destroy the reputation  
of those whom the church had appointed to be their teachers  
and for no other cause, only that you were not the persons

The Saints in Scotland having elected Oliver Goudry to  
be a justice of the peace, he used the power ~~of his office~~ to take  
their most sacred rights from them and that contrary to law

He supported a parcel of Blacklegs and in disturbing  
the worship of the saints, and when the men whom <sup>the</sup> church  
had chosen to preside over their meetings endeavoured to put  
the house to order, he helped (and by the authority of his Justices  
office too) these witches to continue their confusion and threat-  
ened the church with a prosecution for trying to put them  
out of the house, and issued writs against the Saints for endea-  
vouring to sustain their rights, and bound themselves under  
heavy bonds to appear before his honor, and required bonds  
which were both inhuman and unlawful, and one of these  
was the venerable father who had been appointed by the  
church to preside, a man of upwards of seventy years  
of age, and notorious for his peccable habits, Oliver Goudry  
David Whitmer and Lyman E. Johnson united with a  
gang of counterfeiters, thieves, liars, and blacklegs of the  
deepest dye to deceive, cheat, and deprive the Saints out of  
their property, by every art and stratagem which wicked-  
ness could invent, using the influence of the vilest

persecutors to bring vexatious lawsuits villainous prosecutions, and even stealing not excepted, in the midst of this career, for fear (as) the saints would seek redress at their hands, they breathed out threatenings of mobs and actually made attempts with their gang to bring mobs upon them. Oliver Cowdery and his gang, such as they as belonged to the church, were called to an account by the church for their iniquity, they confessed & repented and were again restored to the church. But the very first opportunity they were again practising their former course, while this wickedness was going on in Kirtland County and his Company were writing letters to Far West in order to destroy the characters of every person that they thought were standing in their way. And John Whitmer and William W. Phelps were assisting to prepare the way to throw confusion among the saints of Far West. During the full career of Oliver Cowdery & David Whitmer's Bogus money business got abroad in to the world that they were engaged in it and several Gentlemen were preparing to commence a prosecution against Cowdery he finding it out took with him Lyman C. Johnson, and fled to Far West with their friends, leaving their property & bringing it with him, which has been within a few weeks past obtained by the owner, by means of a search warrant and he was saved from the penitentiary by the influence of two influential men of the place. He also brought notes with him upon which he had received pay and made an attempt to sell them to Mr. Arthur of Clay County. And Lyman C. Johnson on his arrival reported that he had a note of one thousand dollars against a principal man of this church, when it was a palpable falsehood, and he had no such thing, and he did it for the purpose of injuring his character. Shortly after Cowdery and Johnson left Kirtland for Far West they were followed by David Whitmer, and whose arrival a general system of slandering and abuse was commenced by you all, for the purpose of destroying the characters of certain individuals whose influence & their regard for rightousness you dreaded, and not only yourselves but your wives and children led by yourselves were busily engaged in it, neither were you contented with slandering and vilifying here but you kept up continual correspondence with your gang of marauders in Kirtland, encouraging them to go on with their iniquity which they did to perfection by deceiving false to injure the characters and property of innocent men stealing cheating lying instituting vexatious lawsuits selling Bogus money and also stones and sand for bogus in which nefarious

business Oliver Cowdery David Whitmer and Lyman E. Johnson were engaged while you were there, since your arrival here you have commenced a general system of the same kind of conduct in this place, You set up a nasty, dirty, Pettifoggers office pretending to be judges of the law, when it is a notorious fact that you are profoundly ignorant of it, and of every other thing which is calculated to do mankind good, or if you know it you take good care never to practice it. And in order to bring yourselves into notice you began to interfere with all the business of the place trying to destroy the character of our merchants and bring their creditors upon them and break them up. In addition to this you stirred up men of weak minds to prosecute one another for the vile purpose of getting a fee for Pettifogging for one of them. You have also been threatening continually to enter into a general system of prosecution, determined as you said to pick a flaw in the titles of those who have bought City lots and built upon them not that you can do anything but cause vexatious lawsuits.

And among ~~the~~ the most monstrous of all your abominations we have evidence, which when called upon we can produce that letters sent to the post office in this place have been opened, read, and destroyed, and the persons to whom they were sent never obtained them thus ruining the business of the place. We have evidence of a very strong character that you are at this very time engaged with a gang of counterfeiters, Coiners and blacklegs, as some of those characters have lately visited our city from Kirtland and told what they had come for, and we know assuredly, that if we suffer you to continue we may expect and that speedily to find a general system of stealing, counterfeiting, cheating, and burning property, as in Kirtland, for so are your associates carrying on there at this time and that encouraged by you by means of letters you send continually to them, and to crown the whole you have had the audacity to threaten us, that if we offered to disturb you, you would get up a mob from Clay and Ray Counties for this intent if nothing else and your threatenings to shoot us if we offered to molest you we will put you from the County of Caldwell so help us God. the above was signed by some 84 Mormons

Far West June 1838

To Oliver Cowdry David Whitmer John  
Whitmer William N. Phelps and Lyman E.  
Johnson Greeting Whereas the Citizens of Caldwell  
County have borne with the abuses received  
from you at different times and on different oc-  
casions until it is no longer to be endured, neither  
will they endure it any longer, having exhausted  
all the patience they have. We have borne long  
and suffered terribly, but we will bear nor  
suffer any longer and the decree has gone forth  
from our hearts and shall not return unto us  
void. Neither think gentlemen in so doing we  
are trifling with either you or ourselves for we  
are not. There are no threats from you, no fear  
of losing our lives by you or any thing you can  
say, or do will restrain us for out of the County  
you shall go and no power shall save you, and  
you shall have three days after you receive this our  
Communication to you including twenty four  
hours in each day for you to depart with your  
families peaceably which you may do un-  
disturbed by any person. But in that time if  
you do not depart we will use the means in  
our power to cause you to depart for go you shall.  
We will have no more promises to reform as you  
have already made and in every instance vio-  
lated your promise and regarded not the Covenant  
which you had made; but put both it and us at  
defiance. We have solemnly warned you and  
that in the most determined manner, that if  
you did not cease that course of wanton abuse  
of the Citizens of this County that vengeance would  
overtake you sooner or later, and that when it did

Come it may be as furious as the Mountain torrent and as terrible as the beating tempest But you have affected to despise our warnings and pass them off with a snar or a grin or a threat and still pursue your former course. Virginie sleeps not neither does it slumber; And unless you heed us this time, and attend to our request, it will overtake you at an hour when you do not expect it and at a day when you do not look for it and for you there shall be no escape; for there is but one decree for you which is depart depart or else a more fatal calamity shall befall you After Oliver Goudry had been taken by a State warrant for stealing and the stolen property found concealed in the house of William W Phelps; in which nefarious transactions John Whitmire had also participated Oliver Goudry stole the property Conveyed it to John Whitmire and John Whitmire to William W Phelps and thus the officers of the law found it. While in the hands of the officers and under an arrest for this vile transaction and if possible to hide your shame from the world like criminals which indeed you were, you appealed to our beloved brethren President Rigdon Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon Men whose character you had endeavored to destroy, by every artifice you could invent not even the basest lying excepted Notwithstanding all your scandalous attacks, still ~~such~~ was the nobleness of their characters that even vile enimis could not appeal to them in vain They entreated as you well know other influence to save you from your just fate and they by their influence delivered you out of the hands of the officers While you were pleading

with this you promised Reformation. You bound yourselves by the most solemn promise that you would never be employed again in abusing any of the Citizens of Caldwell and by such considerations did you attempt to escape the Workhouse.

But now for the sequel - did you practice the promised reformation. You know that you did not but by secret efforts continued to practice your inequity and clandestinely to injure their character notwithstanding this kindness to you. Are such things to be borne? You yourselves would answer that they are unufferable if you were to answer according to the feelings of your own hearts. As we design this paper to be published to the world we will give an epitome of your scandalous conduct and treachery for the last two years. We wish to remind you that Oliver Condry and David Whitmer were among the principal of those who were the means of gathering us to this place by their false money which they gave concerning the plates of the book of Mormon, that they were shown to them by an Angel which testimony we believe now as much as before you so scandalously disgraced it. You commenced your wickedness by heading a party to disturb the worship of the Saints of the first day of the week, and made the houses of the Lord in Kirtland to be a scene of abuse and slander to destroy the reputation of those whom the Church had appointed to be their teachers and for no other cause only that you were not the persons. The Saints in Kirtland having elected Oliver Condry to be a justice of the peace, he used the power of that office, to take their most sacred rights from them, and that

Contrary to law. He supported a parcel of Blacklegs in disturbing the worship of the saints - and when the men whom the Church had chosen to preside over their meetings endeavoured to put the house in order. Oliver Cowdry by the authority of his office assisted those rascals in continuing their confusion and threatened the Church with a prosecution for trying to put them out of the house. And issued writs against the saints for endeavouring to sustain rights and bound them under heavy bonds to appear before his honour - and required bonds which were both inhuman and unlawful. One of those injured men was a man upwards of seventy years of age the venerable Father who had been appointed by the Church to preside - a man notorious for his peaceable habits.

Oliver Cowdry David Whitmire and Vynne C Johnson united with a gang of Counterfeiters, thieves, liars, and Blacklegs of the deepest die to deceive, cheat and defraud the saints out of their property by every art and stratagem which McKiernan could invent using the influence of the vilest persecutors to bring vexatious lawsuits upon venomous persecutors and even killing notwithstanding - excepted. In the midst of this career for fear the saints would sink under it at their hands they breathed out threatenings of mobs and actually made attempts with their gang to bring mobs upon them. Oliver Cowdry and his gang such of them as belonged to the Church were called to an account by the Church for this inequity - they confessed infraction and were again restored to the Church. But the very first opportunity they were

again practicing this former course. While this  
mischief was going on in Kirtland Oliver  
Cowdrey and his gang were writing letters to Far  
West in order to destroy the character of every  
person they thought more standing in their way.  
And John Whitmer and William W. Phelps were  
assisting to prepare the way to throw confusion  
among the saints of Far West. During the full  
career of Oliver Cowdrey and David Whitmers  
Pogues money business it got abroad into the world  
that they were engaged in it, and several gentlemen  
were preparing to commence a prosecution against  
Cowdrey. He finding it out took with him Lyman  
C. Johnson and fled to Far West with this fam-  
ily: Cowdrey stealing a property and bringing  
it with him; which has within a few months past  
been obtained by the owners by means of a Search  
Warrant and he was saved from the Peniten-  
tary by the influence of two influential men of  
this place. He also brought notes with him upon which  
he had received pay and had promised to destroy them  
since he made an attempt to sell them to  
Mr Arthur of Clay County. And Lyman C.  
Johnson on his arrival reported that he had a note  
of one thousand dollars against a principal man  
in this Church when it is a fact that it was a  
palpable falsehood and had no such thing and  
he did it for the purpose of injuring his character.  
Shortly after Cowdrey and Johnson left Kirtland  
for Far West they were followed by David  
Whitmer, on whose arrival a general system  
of slander and abuse was commenced by you all  
for the purpose of destroying the character of  
certain individuals whose influence and strict

regard for righteoumess you dreded and not only  
 you but your wives and children led by yourselves  
 were busily engaged in it. Neither were you con-  
 tented with slandering and vilifying him: but you  
 kept up continual correspondence with your  
 gang of Marauders in Hattan encouraging  
 them to go on with their iniquity which they did  
 to perfection by swearing falsely to injure the  
 character and property of innocent men - cheating  
 stealing, lying, and instituting vexatious law  
 suits, selling bogus money, and also stones and  
 sand for bogus money, in which nefarious business  
 you Oliver Condon, David Ulthamer and Lyman  
 E Johnson were engaged while at Hattan. Since  
 your arrival here you have commenced a general  
 system of the same kind of conduct in this place  
 you got up a nasty dirty pelfogger office pre-  
 tending to be judges of the law. When it is a no-  
 torious fact that you are profoundly ignorant  
 of it. And of every other thing calculated to do  
 mankind good or if you know it you take good  
 care never to practice it. And in order to bring  
 yourselves into notice you began to interfere with  
 all the business of the place trying to destroy  
 the character of our merchants and bring  
 their creditors upon them and break them up.  
 In addition to this you started up men of mean  
 minds to prosecute one another, for the vile pur-  
 pose of getting a fee for a pelfogger from them.  
 You have been also been threatening continually to  
 enter into a general system of prosecuting determined  
 as you said to peck a flaw in the titles of those who  
 have purchased City lots and built upon them  
 that that you can do any thing but cause vexatious

lawsuits. And among the most monstrous of all your abominations we have evidence which when called upon we can produce; that letters sent to the Post Office in this place have been opened and read and destroyed, and the persons to whom they were sent never obtained them - thus ruining the business of the place. We have evidence of a very strong character that you are this very time engaged with a gang of Counterfeiters and Coiners and blacklegs as some of those characters have lately visited our City from Kirtland and told what they had come for, and we know assuredly that if we suffer you to continue we may expect and that speedily to find a general system of Stealing, Cheating, Counterfeiting, and burning property as in Kirtland for so are your associates carrying on this at this time and that encouraged by you by means of letters you send continually to them.

And to crown to whole you have had the audacity to threaten us that if we offered to disturb you - you would get up a mob from Clay and Ray counties for this intent if nothing else under your threatening to shoot us if we offered to molest you. We will put you from the County of Caldwell so help us God.

Sampson Avard Geo W. Pittkin Will Andrews  
Ralph Cox Phil Dibble & B Huntington  
Geo W. Robinson Daniel Barn Ebinger Robin  
Low Sumner Tracy Amasa Lyman Daniel  
Carter S. D. Hunter Craster Bingham  
Alexander McRea Samuel Bent Israel  
Burton Elisha Avard Silas Maynard

Amn Rockwell Elyah Avotte Joseph Clark Jr  
Lorenzo Barnes Joseph Corley Levi W. Hancock  
Stephen Winchester John C. Heglee Isaac  
Heglee Chandler Hollbrook Gad Yale Huntington  
Johnson John Dony George D. Lykes William  
C. Gallagher Anthony Hoade Richard Howard  
George Washington Noyhus John W. Blunk  
Harmon H. Hills Cyrus Daniels Jonathan  
Maynard Benjamin Benson Ignis Bozarth  
Timothy B. Fout Daniel Shearer Sylvester  
Hulet Solomon Daniels William Stringham  
Andrew Moore Aurel Knight James B. Gree  
Dwight Hadding Ezekiel Billington John  
Fawcett John Cruse Rufus Allen Torril  
M. Head Alfred ~~Lee~~ Joseph Rose William  
Hurd Lewis Allen Hiram Clark Fred  
Carter Hawley George Seymour Brown  
James Henry James Allen Ethan  
Barrows Charles C. Rich John Smith  
Harlow Redfield Joseph Cooledge Edward  
Leake Jackson Smith Jacob Gates  
Sydney Tanner James Brashear Joseph  
Holtbrook Nathan Tanner Warner Carter  
Airam Smith Nelson Maynard Philo Allen.

About the time the dissenters fled, President Bigdon preached a sermon from the text "ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost its savour, where with shall it be salted? it is therefore good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Commonly called the salt sermon, in which the dissenters were <sup>called</sup> compared to the salt that had lost its savour, and that they should be trampled upon, and driven out by the saints, which was well understood by the danites to be a part of their duty to do. — When Genl. Lucas men marched up to Far West, Smith told me, as I understood him, that he had said to one of the militia captains, not to come any further as he might get into danger — Smith after erecting his bul-warks, (the night after Genl Lucas arrived) asked me if I did not think him pretty much of a general and I answered in the affirmative — we were advised all the time to fight valiantly, and that the angles of the Lord would appear in our defense and fight our battles — In reference to Bogart's battle, I know but little personally as to the start of the troops to fight Bogart — I was called upon to go along with the company, (which was commanded by Patten) as surgeon this was about midnight, but as I thought a little sleep would do me more good than fighting, I remained at home. — In the morning of the fight, about 6 o'clock I was called on by a Mr. Emmet who informed me that Capt Learnaught was wounded mortally — I went to Patten about 3 miles from the battle ground, where I found Joe Smith in present laying hands on the wounded & blessing them to heal them — A Mr. Obanion was also mortally wounded, I heard the following of the prisoners say he was present in the fight to wit Mormonism